SARL NEWS SUNDAY 17 MAY 2009

You are listening to ZS6SRL, the official radio station of the South African Radio League, the national body for amateur radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. To listen to a webstream, visit www.sarl.org.za, click on ARMI and follow the links for details. PLEASE NOTE: for audio via Echolink, connect to ZS0JPL-R.

You can download this bulletin and previous ones from www.sarl.org.za and subscribe to receive future bulletins by e-mail.

Your news reader this morning is (name), (call sign), on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria, with relays on 28,325, 14,235, 10,130, 7,066 and 3,695 MHz SSB, as well as 52,750, 438,825 and 1 296 MHz FM in the Pretoria area. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to announce that the key of J H Fuller, ZS6JHF, became silent on 25 April due to a stroke. To his wife Elise, Chantelle, other relatives and friends, our sincerest sympathasies.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

TAKING AMATEUR RADIO INTO GAUTENG SCHOOLS

SOME PROGRESS ON EXPANSION OF THE 40 METRE BAND

NEXT RTA IN DURBAN

YOUTH DAY SPRINT TO GET THE YOUTH TALKING

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

TAKING AMATEUR RADIO INTO GAUTENG SCHOOLS

The SARL is working with the Sci Bono Science Discovery Centre and the Gauteng Provincial De
The plan is to train teachers to qualify as radio amateurs by the end of the year and to int
The SARL Council at its recent strategy indaba agreed with the concept in principle and appo

SOME PROGRESS ON EXPANSION OF THE 40 METRE BAND

There was some progress on the expansion of the 40 metre band. ICASA confirmed this week tha
Keep an eye on the SARL web pages for the latest.

NEXT RTA IN DURBAN

Positive comments about the 2009 RTA programme are still being heard on the bands in Gauteng
Arrangements for the RTA in the Eastern Cape in Port Elizabeth are in the final stages. The
All the RTA programme details are on www.sarl.org.za.

PIO PROGRAMME WILL START SOON

The SARL Public Information Programme will start soon. Only a few clubs have sent in the nam
Get full details in the news section on www.sarl.org.za under ClubTalk.

SUPPORT SCIENCE AND THE YOUTH

The Sci Bono Science Discovery Centre Science Festival will be held throughout the week and

YOUTH DAY SPRINT TO GET THE YOUTH TALKING

The Youth Sprint on 16 June 2009 is aimed at getting the youth talking to each other, but yo
The point structure is 5 points for contacts between two operators under 25 years, only 2 po
There are some fun prizes to be won by participants under 25 years old, not only for the hig
To facilitate the promotion of amateur radio to the youth and to encourage hands-on activity
The call sign (individual or Club) that brings the most unlicensed youth on the air during t

CONTEST NEWS

The results of two local contests have been released for publication. There was a lot of activity on the 40 metre band for the Autumn QRP Sprint, but only 7 logs were received.

1st Andre, ZS2AC,P 15 120 points (1 watt); 2nd Jan, ZS4JAN, 4 648 points (5 watts); 3rd Johan, ZS1I, 1 628 points (5 watts); 4th Pierre, ZS6BB/5, 1 520 points (5 watts); 5th Bill, ZS6KO, 684 points (3 watts); 6th Dylan, ZU6D, 672 points (5 watts); 7th Dirk, ZS1X, 504 points (5 watts).

Only four logs were received for the SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest and only activity on 50 and 70 MHz bands was reported.

Overall Winner Andre, ZS2ACP, 33 996 points; Division 1 Winner John, ZS1AGF, 13 224 points; Division 2 Winner Andre, ZS2ACP, 33 996 points; Division 6 Winner Bert, ZS6HS, 8 780 points with Paul, ZS6NK, in second place with 7 686 points.

Andre, ZS2ACP, achieved the highest score on 50 MHz and shares top honours on 70 MHz with Paul, ZS6NK.

Four South African stations appear in the results listing of the 2008 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest. Donovan, ZS2DL, Thian, ZS2Y, and Jacques, ZS1JY, participated in the single operator category and Barry, ZS2EZ, participated in the single operator assisted category.

Thank you to all the participants and well done to the winners.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the expected solar activity will be very low. The geomagnetic field is expected to be predominantly at quiet levels. The expected effective sun spot number for the coming week will be less than 5. A sunspot has at last appeared that belongs to the new solar cycle, although it is

a very small one. Solar cycle 24 is expected to peak during May 2013. Start planning those 10 and 6 m antennas in the mean time.

The imminent change of season with less energy from the sun reaching the southern ionosphere is having an impact on propagation as well. 15, 17 and 20 m will provide best opportunities for DX. Conditions to the east and the west will be good from the early afternoon onwards. During the late afternoon and early evenings it will be good towards the north. The north-easterly, north-westerly, south-easterly and south-westerly paths will be challenging. Long path propagation towards the USA is also possible. 10 MHz is looking promising in the late afternoon and after dark for the CW and digital enthusiasts.

Local conditions are going to be good on 40 m during the day time. 80 m may perform well during the early mornings and late afternoons over the shorter distances, e.g. between ZS5 and ZS6. 30 m may perform well during the middle of the day between ZS6 and ZS1. With winter on its way 20 m is preparing for hibernation but may still give surprising results up to lunchtime. 80 m is the frequency of choice in the evenings. Unfortunately, the static noise levels are still rather high, making contacts over the longer distances a bit challenging.

Remember that this is only a prediction and that HF has the capability to pleasantly surprise you, but you will never know unless you switch your rig on, listen and also call CQ.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

DIARY OF EVENTS

18 to 22 May Special Event Station ZS6SCI, Sci Bono, on the air; 20 May Radio Amateur Exam; 24 May ZS4 Sprint; 26 May Sandton ARC technical meeting at the NARC; 30 May Pretoria Mega Flea Market and RTA in Kwazulu-Natal; 16 June Youth Sprint.

SARL News invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners. Submit news items, if possible, in both English and Afrikaans to www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp, not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

The SARL also invites you to listen to the Amateur Radio Mirror International programme every Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area, with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 570 kHz. There is also a podcast by ZS6RO. For the webstream and Echolink by ZS6FCS, visit www.sarl.org.za, click on 'ARMI' and follow the links. A repeat transmission can be heard Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz. Sentech sponsors the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have listened to a bulletin of the South African Radio League, compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and edited by Hester van der Walt. Thank you for listening, 73.

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